

Friday October 13, 2023

Conversion of State Owned Property Working Group Meeting #1

We heard from Laoise King, Deputy Commissioner of CT DOT on policies and projects the state is currently working on including but not limited to the Stamford Transportation Master Plan and the New Haven Train Station Plan. CT DOT continues to work with municipalities to site housing close to train stations. In addition, DOT is working with DECD and DOH on affordability levels. Current proposed affordability level being discussed is 20%, as a minimum. Potential future sites that may be possible for housing include, but are not limited to West Haven, Stratford, Danbury, Fairfield Stations, Bethel and Wallingford.

Our working group had a general discussion. We spoke about the following themes: a comprehensive list of state-owned land; a comprehensive list of state owned buildings for adaptive use consideration; the importance of a streamlined process for the sale of land/buildings; the importance of municipal outreach and engagement; and thinking about what site characteristics are important to prioritize (amenities such as grocery, bus access, etc.). We also spoke about the importance of zoning, specifically density.

Next steps include the coordination of two meetings: One that will focus on CT government agencies, including DOH, DAS and OPM. And a second meeting that will focus on MA government agencies, specifically the MBTA. We will get back to everyone with dates.

Here are some links to MA legislation that might be interesting:

MBTA Communities: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/multi-family-zoning-requirement-for-mbta-communities>

Chapter 40R, TOD: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/chapter-40r>

Chapter 43D, Expedited Local Permitting: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/chapter-43d-expedited-local-permitting>

Chapter 43E, Expedited State Permitting:

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter43E>

MassWorks, Infrastructure Funding Program: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massworks-infrastructure-program>